

Section 3

Community Participation

Throughout the Site's history, EPA, JSP and NMED kept the community, other governmental entities, citizen advisory groups and interested parties informed of the Site activities. Listed below is a detailed summary and chronology of the various public outreach efforts. In addition to the outreach activities listed below, and the public website maintained by EPA, the JSP also maintains a website specifically devoted to the Site. The EPA uses various methods for informing communities on site activities at Superfund sites and seeking public participation in the process. One routine activity EPA uses for updating a community is the development of site Fact Sheets. Informational Fact Sheets at Superfund sites are routinely mailed to individuals on the site mailing list, which includes community members located within approximately one mile of the site, elected officials, and other interested parties who have requested information or who have attended public meetings. At the Site, EPA met community members and performed various outreach activities in response to the Site-specific needs of the community. This included responding to citizen concerns, neighborhood associations, and the community through informal discussions, community open houses, and public meetings. The JSP was particularly helpful in the success in all of the events listed below and provided local support throughout EPA's community involvement process and by assisting in newspaper publications through various local outlets.

- January 11, 2001: *The Environmental News*, a national periodical, published an article concerning EPA's decision to propose the Site to the NPL.
- January 20, 2001: EPA issued a Public Notice in newspapers in wide circulation throughout the State announcing that the Site was being proposed to the NPL, when the comment period would open for public comments, and when the comment period would end.
- February, 2001: In a Federal Register notice, EPA proposed the Site to the NPL due to the presence of PCE contaminating the ground water.
- June 16, 2001: The Associated Press in Las Cruces, reports that the EPA has added the Site to the NPL.
- June 25, 2001: EPA places an ad in the local newspaper of general distribution (the *Las Cruces Sun News*) regarding the listing of the Site on the NPL.

- July 21, 2001: EPA placed a notice in the *Las Cruces Sun News* stating that Region 6 has received a letter of intent from a citizen group indicating that it intended to apply for a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) related to the Site.
- EPA postpones the September 11, 2001 open house in response to 9/11 terrorists attacks and airport closings.
- September 12, 2001: EPA sends out post card announcements inviting the residents near the Site, and those listed on EPA's mailing list to an open house meeting to be held at the local elementary school (Hermosa Elementary) to discuss the Superfund program, the Site conditions that made the Site eligible for NPL listing, and answer other related questions from the public.
- October, 2001: EPA sends out a Fact Sheet to citizens within 2 miles from the plume boundaries and those other interested parties listed on the EPA mailing list describing recent and upcoming developments at the Site.
- November 8, 2001: EPA sends out flyers inviting residents on the EPA mailing list to an Open House to be held on September 11, 2001 at the Sierra Middle School Cafeteria in Las Cruces, New Mexico.
- November 9, 2001: EPA releases information to the *Las Cruces Sun News*, with an update about the Site and some information that was to be discussed at the Open House.
- January 1, 2002 EPA assists ATSDR in conducting its health assessment and evaluation of the Site.
- February 21, 2002: EPA meets with a Community Advisory Group (CAG) and holds a public meeting at the Sierra Middle School to update the community on Site activities and options associated with applying for TAG grants.
- April 4, 2002: EPA announces an open house scheduled to answer questions associated with Site activities. EPA sends out Fact Sheet to citizens on the mailing list updating them on Site plans and sampling activities taking place near their neighborhoods. Announcement published in local newspapers including the *Las Cruces Sun News* and the *Las Cruces Bulletin*.
- April 9, 2002: EPA sends out invitation to those on the mailing list announcing the open house scheduled to be held on April 25, 2002 at the Hermosa Heights Elementary School Cafeteria.
- April 24, 2002: EPA met with the CAG members and answered questions from parties interested in applying for the TAG. The EPA never received any formal applications, and only inquiries, therefore, a TAG was never awarded.

- April 25, 2002: EPA holds open house.
- August 12, 2002: The CLC begins mailing a bi-monthly Fact Sheet entitled, *Superfund PCE Project Update* to interested persons on alternating months. The update contains data results collected from municipal water supply wells and explains how the blending program is maintaining compliance with the drinking water standards.
- November, 2002: EPA sends out Fact Sheet to residents on the mailing list summarizing data findings at the Site and provides the community an update on Site activities.
- ATSDR announces in the *Las Cruces Sun News*, and other local publications about a scheduled open house on January 13, 2003 to discuss the public health assessment performed for the Site.
- January 31, 2003: EPA sends out notification letters and postcards to residents who requested EPA to sample their tap water.
- November, 2003: EPA mails a Fact Sheet to residents on the mailing list updating them on Site activities.
- July 21, 2005: EPA holds an open house at the Sierra Middle School Cafeteria. Fact Sheets were mailed prior to the meeting, along with invitations to residents on the EPA mailing list. The Fact Sheet provided an update to residents on recent Site activities including the Settlement Agreement reached with the JSP (CLC and County) for completing the RI/FS.
- November 25, 2006: EPA announces in the *Las Cruces Sun News* the public comment period begins on December 4, 2006 and ends January 5, 2007 on the Proposed Plan publication and invites the public to attend the public meeting where EPA will discuss the proposed remedy and hear comments from the public. EPA also mailed post cards inviting residents on the mailing list to the public meeting and identified where the Site documents could be reviewed, before the comment period ended. EPA also mailed a Fact Sheet summarizing the contents of the Proposed Plan document and described how EPA proposes to clean up the ground water Site. The public meeting was held on December 7, 2006 at Sierra Middle School.

Section 4

Scope and Role of Response Action

- The ground water remedy will treat the entire PCE plume by pumping ground water